Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A cooperative system capable of working cooperatively with a plurality of systems, comprising:

a plurality of information systems; and

a hub system connected to said plurality of systems,

said hub system comprising:

decision means for determining a path type, the path type being one of a first path type in which two information systems cooperatively work and a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work, and for determining necessity of message conversion and the message conversion kind; and

conversion means for converting a message received from a first information system to a form suitable for a second information system, said second information system being destination of said message; ~~and~~

~~decision means for determining necessity of message conversion and a kind of conversion~~wherein said hub system performs a flow control when the determined path type is the second path type.

2. (currently amended) A hub system connected to a plurality of information systems, capable of working cooperatively plural systems, said hub system comprising:

decision means for determining a path type, the path type being one of a first path type in which two information systems cooperatively work and a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work, and for determining necessity of message conversion and the message conversion kind; and

conversion means for converting a message received from a first information system to a form suitable for a second information system, said second information system being a destination of said message; ~~and~~

~~decision means for determining necessity of message conversion and a kind of conversion~~wherein said hub system performs a flow control when the determined path type is the second path type.

3. (original) A hub system according to claim 2, further comprising:

flow control means for determining a flow and destination of a message received from said first information system based on a class of said message,

wherein said decision means further determines whether said flow control means should be used.

4. (original) A hub system according to claim 2,

wherein said conversion means comprises:

protocol conversion means for conducting protocol conversion; and

message conversion means for conducting message form conversion, and

wherein said decision means checks protocols used in the first information system and the second information system, and if the protocols are the same, said decision means judges protocol conversion to be unnecessary.

5. (currently amended) A hub system according to claim 4, wherein said protocol conversion means conducts conversion from a protocol used in said first information system to an internal protocol in said hub system, and conducts conversion from said internal protocol to a protocol used in said second information system.

6. (original) A hub system according to claim 2, wherein said decision means determines processing to be conducted on the received message in accordance with decision rule.

7. (original) A hub system according to claim 6, wherein said decision rule associates a business class included in the received message with a message processing content.

8. (original) A hub system according to claim 6, wherein said decision rule associates an amount of money included in the received message with a message processing content.

9. (original) A hub system according to claim 6, wherein said decision rule associates user information included in the received message with a message processing content.

10. (original) A hub system according to claim 6, wherein said decision rule associates a message originating system with a message processing content.

11. (currently amended) A method for making a plurality of information systems cooperate with a plurality of systems, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting a hub system to said plurality of systems;

receiving, in said hub system, a message from a first information system;

determining, in said hub system, a path type, the path type being one of a first path type in which two information systems cooperatively work and a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work,

determining, in said hub system, necessity of message conversion and ~~a kind of conversion~~the message conversion kind; and

if necessary, converting, in said hub system, said message to a form suitable for a second information system, said second information system being destination of said message; and

performing, in said hub system, a flow control when the determined path type is the second path type to determine a flow of the message; and

transmitting said message from said hub system to ~~a~~ the second information system.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11~~, further comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining, in said hub system, whether flow control should be conducted, said flow control determining a flow~~ wherein said performing step determines a message flow and destination of a message received from said first information system, based on a class of said message~~; and~~

~~conducting, in said hub system, flow control when it has been determined that flow control should be conducted~~.

13. (currently amended) A storage medium containing a hub program, the hub program when executed by a ~~computer~~ hub to make a plurality of information systems cooperate, ~~said hub program executing the steps of~~causing the hub to perform:

receiving a message from a first information system;

~~determining necessity of message conversion and a kind of conversion;~~determining a path type, the path type being one of a first path type in which two information systems cooperatively work and a second path type in which more than two information systems cooperatively work,

determining necessity of message conversion and the message conversion kind;

if necessary, converting said message to a form suitable for a second information system, said second information system being a destination of said message; ~~and~~

performing a flow control when the determined path type is the second path type to determine a flow of the message; and

transmitting said message from said hub to ~~a~~ the second information system.

14. (new) A storage medium according to claim 2, wherein if the decision means determines that no message conversion is required and the path type is the first path type, the hub transfers the message received from the first information system to the second information system.